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2005 World Military Games

US Shooting Team hopes to win CISM

By Paula J. Randall Pagán
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FORT BENNING, Ga. - Nine military personnel from the Army, Army Reserve and Navy Reserve will represent the United States at the 40th Conseil International du Sport Militaire Oct. 9 to 20 in Thun, Switzerland. The CISM World Military Shooting Championship - also known as the Military World Games or Military Olympics - features seven shooters from the Army Marksmanship Unit, one from the Army Reserve and one from the Navy Reserve.

The U.S. Team shooters are:

Men's Pistol Team - Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski, Staff Sgt. John C. Ennis and Staff Sgt. Keith A. Sanderson of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

Women's Pistol Team - Staff Sgt. Janet Sokolowski of the Army Marksmanship Unit, Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Callahan of the Army Reserve and Petty Officer 2nd Class Sandra Uptagrafft of the Navy Reserve.

Men's Rifle Team - Lt. Col. Robert E. Harbison, Sgt. 1st Class Jason A. Parker and Sgt. Shane M. Barnhart of the Army Marksmanship Unit. Women's Rifle Team - None.

The CISM Shooting Championships consists of men's and women's rifle and pistol competitions. The rifle shooters compete with standard rifles at 300-meters in the prone, kneeling and standing positions in both rapid and slow fire matches. The pistol team will compete in the Center Fire and Military Rapid Fire Championships.

Only the men's teams' scores count in the overall "Best Nation" awards; the women's teams compete for their own individual and team awards.

Szarenski is a two-time Olympian and 2001 CISM Military Rapid Fire Team Bronze Medalist. Ennis, who is the Center Fire National Champion, competed in the 2004 and the 1999 CISM championships. Sanderson is the Rapid Fire Pistol National Champion as well as the Interservice Pistol Champion.

Harbison is a 1996 Olympian and a five-time CISM Team member; he has won an individual Silver Medal, three team Gold Medals and a team Silver Medal at CISM. Parker is a two-time Olympian, World Champion, World Record Holder and 2001 CISM Overall Rifle Champion. Barnhart won the Military Rapid Fire Bronze Medal and took home a team Gold Medal and world record in the 2001 CISM.

Sokolowski was the Army's first female Soldier to receive the President's Hundred Pistol Tab; she also is a recipient of the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. Callahan is a three-time Olympian and is a retired lieutenant in the patrol department with Washington, D.C., police force. Uptagrafft was a member of the Army Marksmanship Unit from 1992 to 1995 and is married to Navy Reserve Lt. Eric A. Uptagrafft, also a former member of the USAMU, who just happened to be last year's CISM rifle winner.

Approximately 50 countries send about 650 shooters to compete for the World Military Shooting Championship Trophy. The USA's strongest competitors include Russia, France, Switzerland and Scandinavia.

"We are fielding an extremely strong rifle and pistol team and I think we have a very good chance of winning Best Nation this year," said Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competition.

(Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>.)